

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**GILA COUNTY, ARIZONA**

Date: April 13, 2004

**JOSÉ M. SANCHEZ**

Chairman

**JOHN F. NELSON**

Clerk of the Board

**RONALD A. CHRISTENSEN**

Vice-Chairman

By: Marian Sheppard  
Chief Deputy Clerk

**CRUZ SALAS**

Member

Gila County Courthouse  
Globe, Arizona

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PRESENT: José M. Sanchez, Chairman; Ronald A. Christensen, Vice-Chairman; Cruz Salas, Member; Jacque Griffin, Assistant County Manager/District Librarian; and, Bryan Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Chief Deputy County Attorney.

The Gila County Board of Supervisors met in Workshop Session at 10:00 a.m. this date. Supervisor Cruz Salas led the Pledge of Allegiance and Dixie Mundy delivered the Invocation.

At this time each Board member presented a brief summary of current events as allowed by A.R.S. §38-431.02(K). No action was taken on any items that were presented.

Juley Bocardo-Homan, Senior Personnel Analyst, read aloud letters of nomination for the following recipients of April I'MAGE (I'm a Great Employee) Awards: Kenneth Hicks, Superintendent, Public Works Division; Bob Hickman, Manager, Facilities Management Department; Tim Campos, Bailiff, Superior Court Administration; and, Sheriff John R. Armer. Ms. Bocardo-Homan presented awards to each recipient and each Board member congratulated the recipients.

Brian Cosson, National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR), provided an overview of the National

Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through the use of a Power Point presentation. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- The NFIP was established by Congress in 1968.
- The NFIP is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Over 20,000 communities in the U.S. participate in the NFIP. In Arizona, every County participates in the NFIP.
- NFIP goals are to protect lives and property, and reduce the financial burden for flood disaster assistance.
- There is a 26% chance that a house located in a Special Flood Hazard Area will be inundated by a 100-year flood during a 30-year period.
- FEMA's role is to identify the flood risk, establish safe building standards in high hazard flood areas, and provide affordable, federally-backed flood insurance coverage.
- Federally-backed flood insurance coverage is available to all property owners in the communities that participate in the NFIP.
- The community's role is to adopt and enforce local floodplain management ordinances that comply with the minimum standards of the NFIP.
- The involvement of both the public and private sector is important for the success of the NFIP. Public Sector participants include local planning, zoning and building officials; local community elected officials; State NFIP coordinating agency – ADWR; State insurance commissioners; FEMA; and, other State and Federal agencies. Private sector participants include the property-buying public; lenders; insurance and real estate agents; appraisers; consulting engineers; surveyors; and, environmental groups.
- By law, structures that are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area and are financed by a federally regulated loan must have flood insurance coverage for the amount of the loan. There is no federal flood insurance purchase requirement for structures that are located outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area.

- Flood insurance coverage limits are as follows: 1) buildings - single family \$250,000 and other residential \$250,000; and, 2) contents – residential \$100,000 and non-residential \$500,000.
- Eligible structures must meet the following requirements: at least two rigid exterior walls and a roof, principally above ground, permanent site, and all structures in a participating community (in any zone).
- Non-insurable structures include buildings over water; unanchored manufactured homes; motorized vehicles; gas and liquid storage tanks (as structures); underground buildings and equipment; and, land, walks driveways and piers.
- Factors used for insurance rating include the flood zone, amount of insurance and deductible, building type, age of structure [elevation certificates are required for post-FIRM (Flood Insurance Rate Map) rates structures in A or V zones, except AR/A99], lowest floor elevation, and, foundation.
- The definition of a pre-FIRM is a structure constructed prior to a community's initial FIRM date.
- For Gila County, the initial FIRM date is September 27, 1985.
- The definition of post-FIRM is a structure built or substantially improved after the initial FIRM date.
- The following waiting periods apply to obtain flood insurance coverage: 1) at closing, the policy is effective immediately; 2) if the insurance coverage is required by lender due to a map change – one day; and, 3) all others – 30 days (even for cash purchases).

Mr. Cossan provided an explanation on the various situations of post-FIRM insurance grandfathering. He provided a definition of “substantial damage” and how floodplain management affects flood insurance rates for structures that have been repaired and elevated versus repaired and non-elevated. He also provided the cost of insurance for the various FEMA zone designations. The Board thanked Mr. Cossan for his presentation.

At 11:11 a.m., Chairman Sanchez recessed the meeting.

At 11:26 a.m., Chairman Sanchez reconvened the meeting and advised that David Buras, P.E., L.S., Vice President of HDR One Company, will present the following agenda item on behalf of Lee Frederiksen of HDR Engineering, Inc., who was unable to attend today's meeting.

Mr. Buras provided a Power Point presentation on the results of the Flood Insurance Study conducted on Tonto Creek and its tributaries. A summary of the presentation is as follows:

- FEMA has specific mandates to identify flood hazards and publish flood hazard information in support of the NFIP.
- FEMA is required to consult with local officials in identifying flood prone areas. FEMA has an ongoing program to; 1) develop new FIRMs for flood prone communities without maps, and 2) update FIRMs with maps.
- In this case, Tonto Creek has already been mapped and this project is an update to that study.
- FEMA works with the community to identify needs and requirements for mapping projects. Due to historical flooding within the Tonto Creek watershed and project future growth, Gila County requested that FEMA: 1) remap the currently mapped areas of Tonto Creek, and 2) extend the mapping to include additional reaches of Tonto Creek and selected tributaries.
- The purpose of this mapping project is to produce updated FIRMS that will; 1) identify special flood hazard areas, 2) be used to establish actuarial flood insurance rates, and 3) will assist the County in its efforts to promote sound floodplain management.
- The study area includes Tonto Creek from Roosevelt Lake upstream to Punkin Center and selected tributaries, an area of approximately 17 miles total, as follows:

STUDY AREA
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Stream Name	Reach Length (Miles)
Tonto Creek	9.75
Sycamore Creek	0.85
Bar X	0.38
Butcher Hook	0.47
Walnut Canyon	0.51
Chalk Spring	0.95
Landing Creek	0.85
Park Creek	0.57
Reno Creek	0.72
South Oak Creek	0.72
Lambing Creek	0.57
Haystack Butte Creek	0.51

- Gila County has prepared the surveying and topographic mapping for the study.
- FEMA contracted with HDR Engineering, Inc. to complete the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and the flood hazard mapping.
- An update of the progress made on HDR Engineering Inc.'s scope of work is as follows: 1) preliminary research activities – completed; 2) outreach and coordination – ongoing - to be completed at the end of the study when the maps are ready to be published for the 90-day public comment period; 3) field surveys and reconnaissance – completed; 4) hydrologic analysis – completed; 5) hydraulic analysis – completed; 6) floodplain mapping – completed; and, 7) reporting.
- Next week FEMA will visit HDR's offices to review the mapping. After FEMA approves of the mapping, the maps will be published for the 90 day public comment period.

Vice-Chairman Christensen advised that over a period of years, the banks of Tonto Creek have widened due to a buildup of gravel and sediment. He expressed a concern that unless some of the gravel and sediment are removed,

private land along Tonto Creek will eventually become uninhabitable. Mr. Buras stated to Vice-Chairman Christensen and the other Board members, “Your observation is correct. Over time floodplains tend to shift and change....That is why mapping is always updated....There are several levies that have been constructed on each side of the stream. FEMA evaluates structures, not just the stream channel itself, but structures that are in the stream to find out what effect they have for the 100-year flood. That is what we have to regulate to, the 100-year flood. In this case, those levies were not engineered facilities that would withstand a 100-year flood. Certainly flood control projects could be undertaken to modify the stream or protect residences as long as those are engineered structures that would withstand a 100-year event, then the mapping could be revised to reflect that. This is a better case than the topography we see in Central Arizona....” Supervisor Salas agreed with Vice-Chairman Christensen’s concerns. He advised that a solution to prevent continued expansion of Tonto Creek is to have the Creek dredged to remove the gravel and sediment as is done in bigger rivers such as the Mississippi and Ohio. Darde de Roulhac, Civil Engineer for the Public Works Division, stated that the mapping will provide a better indication of flood hazards. Mr. de Roulhac advised that Gila County’s partnering with FEMA on this Flood Insurance Study has proven to be very beneficial for Gila County. Mr. de Roulhac provided a brief overview of a proposal that he will be officially presenting to the Board for approval in the near future. He is proposing a procedure to utilize a Section 1316 notice option, which is based on Section 1316 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968. The primary purpose for the proposed procedure is to allow property owners an opportunity to correct floodplain violations and the procedure will also warn potential buyers of any floodplain violations. The Board thanked Mr. Buras and Mr. de Roulac for the presentation.

Jacque Griffin advised that Terry Wheeler, Gila County Cattle Growers Association (GCCGA) President, and Jim Rasmussen, GCCGA

Secretary/Treasurer, will provide an update on GCCGA activities. Mr. Wheeler provided the Board with a handout. Highlights of Mr. Wheeler's presentation are as follows:

- March 29, 2004 through April 2, 2004 – Members of the GCCGA attended a National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Conference in Washington, D.C. and participated in many meetings during that visit to lobby for the following: 1) obtaining permission for cattle to be allowed to once again graze on USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Tonto National Forest lands; 2) implementing the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) on federal lands; and, 3) involving the National Resources Conservation Service in the range evaluation and monitoring process on Tonto National Forest lands.
- Two members of the GCCGA Executive Board were named as chairman on two national task forces, as follows: Terry Wheeler was appointed to the USDA Forest Service Task Force, and Jim Fowler was appointed to the Collaborative Management Task Force.
- Congressman Rick Renzi will be introducing a Rancher's Bill of Rights at the Legislature this summer.
- January 2004 - Members of the GCCGA attended and participated in the NCBA Annual Winter Conference in Phoenix, Arizona.
- To date, 2,700 head of cattle are grazing on the Tonto National Forest, which is less than 5% of the Gila County herd base.

At the conclusion of Mr. Wheeler's presentation, each Board member commented. Jim Rasmussen provided a brief overview of the CGCGA Treasurer's report and advised that most of the funds expended to date are related to lobbying efforts. The Board thanked Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Rasmussen for the presentation.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Supervisors, Chairman Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 1:03 p.m.

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José M. Sanchez, Chairman

ATTEST:

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John F. Nelson, County Manager/Clerk